(a) what is the percentage of perinatal mortality due to congenital deformities;

(b) whether any survey has been made; and

(c) whether causes of malformation have been identified?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI MOHSINA KIDWAI): (a) and (b) Congenital malformations constitute 8 per cent of the perinatal mortality in India as estimated from data available from hospital based studies (ICMR 1976). A recent study in Hyderabad revealed that congenital malformations contributed to 17.8 per cent of perinatal mortality (1982).

(c) Although no specific cause has been identified to the causation of congenital malformation, however it has been suggested that they are inherited on a multi-factoral basis in which environmental and heriditary factors are considered most important. Virus infection, texoplasmosis and ingestion of drugs during the early months of pregnancy also play a significant role in the causation of congenital malformations in India.

Detection of Toxins in Food

341. SHRI BIJOY KRISHNA HANDIQUE: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any methods have been evolved to detect toxins in food and to prescribe guidelines for proper storage and handling of commodities;

(b) whether there are any agencies entrusted with research work on the subject; and

(c) if so, what are the details thereof and whether Government have taken steps to educate consumers on this dangerous aspect of their daily food?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (MISS. KUMUD BEN M. JOSHI): (a) Specific methods have been evolved for detection of different toxins found in various items of food. Guidelines have been issued to All Food (Health) Authorities for proper storage and hygienic conditions in handling of food items.

(b) and (c) Indian Council of Medical Research, New Delhi and Industrial Toxicology Research Centre, Lucknow have carried out research work on toxins found in Kesari Dal, Argemone Oil-Seeds, Aflatoxins in various commodities. The State Governments have been advised from time to time to educate consumers about ill effects of toxic foods.

Population Stabilization

342. SHRI BIJOY KRISHNA HANDIQUE: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) what specific measures are being incorporated in the Seventh Five Year Plan to achieve population stabilization;

(b) whether Government contemplate strengthening and expanding the existing rural and urban infrastructure; if so, the manner in which it is proposed to be done; and

(c) whether Government are contemplating to provide monetary and other incentives for promotion of Family Welfare Programme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI MOHSINA KIDWAI): (a) to (c) The Seventh Five Year Plan for Health and Family Welfare Sector has not yet been formulated.

Katihar-Barauni broad gauge line

343. SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that conversion of Katihar-Barauni section into broad gauge in N. E. Railway was to be completed during the Seventh Plan but now it is likely to be completed during the current year, if so,